

Claims:

1. A method for enhancing bone formation in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a lanthanum (III) compound.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the human has a bone deficit or is at risk of developing a bone deficit.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the human has a bone remodelling disorder or is at risk of developing such disorder.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the bone remodelling disorder is selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, Paget's disease, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, achondroplasia, osteochondrytis, hyperparathyroidism, osteogenesis imperfecta, congenital hypophosphatasia, fibromatous lesions, fibrous dysplasia, multiple myeloma, abnormal bone turnover, osteolytic bone disease, rickets, osteomalacia and periodontal disease.
6. A method according to claim 4 wherein the bone remodeling disorder is osteoporosis.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein osteoporosis is any one of primary osteoporosis, secondary osteoporosis, post-menopausal osteoporosis, male osteoporosis and steroid induced osteoporosis.
8. A method according to claim 3 wherein the human has a bone fracture, bone trauma, or a condition associated

with post-traumatic bone surgery, post-prosthetic joint surgery, post-plastic bone surgery, post-dental surgery, bone chemotherapy treatment or bone radiotherapy treatment.

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9. A method according to claim 2 wherein the lanthanum (III) compound is selected from the group consisting of lanthanum chloride, lanthanum carbonate, lanthanum salts, chelates and derivatives thereof, lanthanum resins and lanthanum absorbants.

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10. A method according to claim 9 wherein lanthanum (III) compound is selected from the group consisting of lanthanum carbonate and lanthanum chloride.

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11. A method according to claim 2 wherein the effective amount of lanthanum (III) compound is from 0.05 mg/Kg/Day to 50 mg/Kg/Day.

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12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the effective amount of lanthanum (III) compound is from 0.1 mg/Kg/Day to 10 mg/Kg/Day.

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13. A method for increasing bone density in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a lanthanum (III) compound.

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14. A method for stimulating osteoblast differentiation comprising contacting said osteoblasts with an effective amount of lanthanum (III) compound thereby stimulating differentiation.

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15. A method for inhibiting osteoclast differentiation comprising contacting said osteoclasts with an effective amount of lanthanum (III) compound thereby inhibiting differentiation.

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16. A method for activating bone formation activity of differentiated osteoblasts comprising contacting said osteoblasts with an effective amount of lanthanum (III) compound thereby stimulating bone formation.
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17. A method for simultaneously stimulating osteoblast differentiation and inhibiting osteoclast differentiation in a mammal having a bone remodeling disorder, or being at risk of developing a bone remodeling disorder, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a lanthanum (III) compound.
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18. A method for enhancing bone formation in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a lanthanum (III) compound and at least one bone enhancing agent.
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19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said bone enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic hormone, a natural hormone, oestrogen, calcitonin, tamoxifen, a biphosphonate, a biphosphonate analog, vitamin D, a vitamin D analog, a mineral supplement, a statin drug, a selective oestrogen receptor modulator and sodium fluoride.
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20. Use of a lanthanum III compound for the preparation of a medicament for use in enhancing bone formation in a mammal in need thereof.
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21. A use as claimed in claim 20 wherein said mammal is a human having a bone remodelling disorder or being at risk of developing such disorder.
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22. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a bone remodelling disorder comprising a lanthanum (III) compound and a bone enhancing agent.

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